

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Greenhouse Gas Emissions Update

Maple Ridge, BC: The City of Maple Ridge's buildings, vehicle fleet, equipment and corporate waste are meeting targets set in 2010 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 33% by the year 2020. These targets are part of a world-wide effort to limit rising global temperatures to within 1.5 degrees Celsius over the pre-industrial era to stave off the most harmful impacts of climate change.

"Council asked for an update after they heard from a number of passionate citizens who came before Council at open meetings. We recognize the importance of taking action to address greenhouse gas emissions and are pleased to see many positive incremental steps, as part of the City's day-to-day business, to address the goals set in 2010. The key to meeting the long term goals of reducing our carbon footprint is taking steps to turn these 'goals' into action." said Mayor Morden.

At the July 7, 2020 Committee of the Whole Meeting, Council heard how a number of initiatives have continued to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from City-owned assets, including:

1. Conversion of transportation fleet vehicles to fully electric or hybrid models;
2. Changes in how computer systems are deployed in the City to reduce energy use;
3. Conversion of lighting systems in City facilities;
4. Conversion of streetlights to LED technology; and
5. Leisure Centre energy retrofit, a project that cut greenhouse gas emissions in half.

While the City's corporate emissions have beat the reduction target, they contribute less than 1% of greenhouse gas emissions in Maple Ridge, while community emissions continue to increase along with our growing population. Homes, businesses, vehicles and waste throughout Maple

Ridge contribute over 400,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions annually. Council has asked staff to provide policy options to tackle this trend.

“Council was unanimous in moving this forward. Next steps include identifying regional and global best practices to help reduce our reliance on fossil fuels through more efficient housing and building forms, electric vehicle infrastructure, more transit options and by strengthening partnerships to control materials going into the waste stream. We all need to do our part on a world-wide problem, as organizations and individuals, to address greenhouse gas emissions,” said Mayor Morden.